

1 STATE OF MAINE
2 LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING
3

4
5 In the Matter of
6 Zoning Petition ZP 779A
7

8
9 October 16, 2023
10

11 **Night 1 of 3 of Public Comment**
12
13

14 BEFORE: Karen A Dube-Harriman, Notary Public,
15 at Stearns Jr. Sr. High School, 199 State Street,
16 Millinocket, Maine.
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1 MR. WORCESTER: Good evening. I now call in
2 session the public hearing of the Land Use Planning
3 Commission on the Zoning Petition ZP-779-A, Wolfden
4 Mt. Chase LLC proposed rezoning to allow for the
5 Pickett Mountain Mine. My name is Everett
6 Worcester. I represent Piscataquis County. I'm the
7 current Chairman of the Land Use Planning Commission
8 and I'll be acting as the hearing officer this
9 evening. Now I'd like to have the others at the
10 table introduce themselves. Leo, please start.

11 MR. TRUNDEL: Leo Trundel, Aroostook County.

12 MR. PRAY: Peter Pray, Penobscot County.

13 MS. HILTON: Gwen Hilton, Somerset County.

14 MS. BEYER: Stacie Beyer, Executive Director of
15 the Land Use Planning Commission.

16 MR. ELWELL: Caleb Elwell, Assistant Attorney
17 General and Counsel for the Commission.

18 MS. FITZGERALD: Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington
19 County.

20 MR. ELLSWORTH: Perry Ellsworth, Hancock
21 County.

22 MR. WORCESTER: And we have one commissioner
23 who is listening remotely to this session. It's
24 Millett Billings, from Hancock County.

25 This hearing is being held pursuant to the

1 provisions of Title 12, Section 684 and Chapter 12
2 of the Commission's rules mining and Level C mine
3 exploration activities. The hearing will be
4 conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 of the
5 Commission's Rules for the conduct of public
6 hearings and the State's Administrative Procedure
7 Act. The purpose of this session is to receive
8 public testimony on the proposed rezoning of Pickett
9 Mountain Mine. This session is being recorded and
10 live streamed.

11 First, the applicant will make a brief
12 introduction to the proposal.

13 JEREMY OUELLETTE: Thank you.

14 MR. WORCESTER: If you want to swing it around
15 so you're talking to the folks that's fine with me.

16 MS. BEYER: The court reporter needs to see
17 him.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Sorry. We have a court
19 reporter that's reading his lips.

20 JEREMY OUELLETTE: Good evening Commissioner
21 Worcester, Commissioners and LUPC staff and members
22 of the public. My name is Jeremy Ouellette. I'm
23 the vice president of project development for
24 Wolfden and I'm here tonight to introduce the
25 project -- the Pickett Project.

1 The Pickett Project is around 9 miles north of
2 Patten, Maine, along Route 11. It goes 4.4 miles on
3 an existing logging road from Route 11 over into the
4 other property. So the Pickett Project -- if you
5 can see on the screen there's a green box and that
6 depicts that property ownership by Wolfden
7 Resources. That's 100 acres. And, it's kind of
8 hard to see from far away, but there's a smaller
9 yellow shape inside that green box and that
10 represents what we're proposing as rezoned area.
11 It's 374 acres. Still can't really see it, but
12 there's a yellow box that shows the rezoning area of
13 374 acres. The -- this is the proposed mine site
14 layout and for reference the yellow line that you
15 probably couldn't see is the dark black outline on
16 the outside of the shape. So, I'll mention that
17 within that first -- the outside black line there's
18 400 foot buffer and then within that buffer is
19 really where you see the infrastructure of the site.
20 You'll notice several colors within the site.
21 There's, sort of, like, blue, purple, orange to the
22 west and then green to the north. Those represent
23 different -- obviously, different areas and
24 different phases of the operation and then the green
25 to the north is the proposed storage facility.

1 Those 3 areas on the site combined worked out to be
2 about 129 acres. And, so, first talking about the
3 blue area. That's really where the nuts and bolts
4 of the project will end up taking place.

5 So, what we're proposing here is a small
6 state-of-the-art underground mine. It's an
7 extremely small footprint expression on the
8 surface -- and, I don't know if this pointer will
9 work. No. The pointer won't work, but there's an
10 identifier that's a little line sort of right in the
11 middle of the map and that is a portal. That's the
12 expression on the surface. It's not a large one.
13 It's quite a bit smaller than this room and it's
14 about 64 foot by 100 feet and that's in surface
15 area. And, what that is is the underground
16 tunneling system.

17 So adjacent to that to the north in the Blue
18 area there's a series of rock storage pads. One for
19 ore which is -- so the ore is the rock that metallic
20 mine is after. And, in this circumstance what we're
21 looking for is zinc, copper led and a little bit of
22 silver and a little bit of gold. One thing to note
23 is the volume of metal per ton -- and in this
24 deposit is really quite high -- so the value per ton
25 is quite high and that's noteworthy for later on.

1 So, just north of that first pad is a waste rock pad
2 and that rock pad is for the inert rock that we'll
3 be tunnelling through on the way to the deposit
4 itself. And then to the northeast of that is
5 another pad and that's for low grade -- essentially
6 for(inaudible) and then to the northeast of that is
7 the snow storage area.

8 A really important area that I wanted to bring
9 to discussion in that blue zone, I suppose, or
10 phase, is the water management area. And, it's kind
11 of very east of the site. You can see a darker
12 circle on the scene there. That's one of 2 large
13 ponds and the water treatment facility. Now, the
14 first large pond is a pre-water treatment storage
15 pond. And, what happens is everything that -- every
16 bit of precipitation whether it's rain or snow that
17 could be contaminated and collected and it's
18 collected into that first pond. The pond is rated
19 for a one in 500 year 24-hour storm event so it's
20 rather large and water from that pond then
21 translates into the water treatment facility. The
22 water treatment proposed for this project is
23 ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis. Essentially,
24 the ultrafiltration reverse osmosis cleans water
25 (inaudible)so we clean water to the very strict

1 Chapter 200 regulation which dictates that we're not
2 able to contaminate any of the water or water
3 resources surrounding the site. We will be treating
4 water to within a Class A water standard in T6-R6.

5 After it's treated it's discharged into a
6 second pond, a post water treatment collection pond.
7 And, that water pond is really -- the purpose of it
8 is so that we can test the water and confirm that
9 the water treatment has done what it was supposed to
10 do. So, before we can discharge to the environment
11 in any sort of way -- this treated water -- it's
12 first confirmed by an independent lab and then,
13 okay. We have some clean water and we can discharge
14 it. The way that we discharge it is designed in
15 such a way to maintain hydrology of that site all
16 around us and I'll explain that more in a bit, but
17 the way that we do that is through a series of spray
18 irrigation and m(inaudible).

19 In the bottom left in the orange area, that's
20 Phase 2. Phase 2 is only really scheduled to come
21 online 3 to 4 years into the project life. That has
22 a vertical excavation, it's called a shaft and a
23 hoist and what that's for is a vertical conveyance
24 for rocks that will be drawn from the deeper parts
25 of the mine which is an absolute depth of 27 hundred

1 feet or a half of a mile. As well in that Phase 2
2 area there's another waste rock storage pad and it's
3 much smaller and then when you look to the north, as
4 I mentioned there in the green, there's storage
5 facility that's laid out.

6 I also want to point out on this map there's
7 sort of a brighter blue or a cyan color, different
8 shape. And, what they are is a weather scientist
9 from Maine had come out to the footprint and did a
10 survey of the entire footprint and surveyed the
11 entire footprint and delineated all the wetlands
12 around the site. And I mentioned why maintaining
13 hydrology is very important, so none of our
14 infrastructure is designed to come into contact with
15 any wetlands. In fact, we made a 75 offset from any
16 wetlands -- wetlands and other water features -- but
17 as we're discharging, distributing the clean water
18 after it's proven to meet Class A standards we spray
19 irrigate it which, essentially, by doing that we
20 mimic the natural precipitation that would
21 ultimately be falling onto those water features
22 already and they're kind of living the lives that
23 they're living today.

24 So, this is the underground -- a lot of folks
25 in this room has probably seen this slide, but I

1 discussed the portal earlier and to the bottom left
2 image you can see -- that's sort of an example of
3 what the portal might look like. And there's a
4 little white vehicle in the middle of that and
5 that's for scale -- that's the size of a half ton
6 truck and then you can see that vehicle driving
7 towards the start of the tunneling system. To the
8 right of that image is a schematic. On the very top
9 you can kind of see the surface topography and the
10 location -- schematic location of the portal. And,
11 from that portal we establish a series of tunnels
12 with cross-sections of 16 foot by 16 foot. Those
13 tunnels are switchback orientation until we get to
14 the desired elevation and then we draw a horizontal
15 which is similar cross-sections over in the ore body
16 itself which is depicted by that large gray block.
17 So, once the tunnels are into the deposit we drill
18 from one down to the next and then the fragmented
19 rock is exploded and then the fragmented rock is
20 then picked up by a front-end loader and the loader
21 brings it up, loads it into a truck or into what are
22 known as skiffs or the vertical conveyance in terms
23 of the Phase 2 area and then it's brought up to
24 surface. So, when a truck comes to the surface to
25 drive up the ramps that were developed to get to the

1 deposit and then they put the ore on top of the ore
2 pad as I mentioned early.

3 It's important to note as well we've collected
4 some data and sort of a theme throughout the
5 discussions is that a lot of data is required to
6 finalize the design for this part of the project.
7 And, so, a part of the data collection is really
8 understanding the type of rocks that those tunnels
9 will be in and we will collect enough data to ensure
10 that we kind of point those tunnels through inert
11 rock, essentially, through aggregate. And, by doing
12 that we're temporarily storing that waste rock or
13 that aggregate on the surface onto a lined pad or a
14 double lined pad and then as we take components of
15 the ore body we'll take it in smaller bits. So, for
16 scale that grade block is around 4 million tons. We
17 would take about four thousand tons at a time. So,
18 we would take a 4,000-ton small block and then we
19 would move that and store it temporarily on the ore
20 storage pad and then we pull rock that has been
21 excavated from the tunnel which are ultimately inert
22 and we bring it back down and fill the voids with
23 them. And, we do that sequentially so that there's
24 never any very large excavations that are in there
25 (inaudible).

1 Also, I wanted to mention just around
2 the hydrology -- as I mentioned earlier as well --
3 deep water. So the ground water table has a certain
4 pressure in it and the tunnels as we excavate them
5 they revert to an atmospheric pressure so inherently
6 what happens is the poor water pressure from the
7 groundwater table flows into the tunnel. We then
8 collect that water and we discharge it at, roughly,
9 30 gallons a minute is what we've estimated. It was
10 estimated by extrapolation from another mill.

11 So I want to talk a little bit about -- I
12 mentioned earlier the metals that we're after, so,
13 zinc and lead and copper and silver and little bit of
14 gold. Now, zinc and copper are 2 of the -- they
15 make up the majority of the metal we're after in
16 this deposit and both of which are on the critical
17 minerals list and this is just a bit of a summary of
18 the average consumption of metal. I guess what I'm
19 trying to point out in this slide are these are the
20 metals that everybody in the room uses every single
21 day.

22 So why are people interested in the project?
23 So, this is a bit of a summary of, you know, with a
24 mining project like this obviously there's a good
25 amount of employment that comes out of it. We're

1 proposing around 270 jobs -- 270 plus. And, the
2 mining portion of it, specifically, is around 233
3 jobs and they're extreme high wages, specifically,
4 for the economic region. And, one question that I
5 get pretty frequently is how are you going to find
6 the people? I think it's important to introduce
7 training programs for all people. It's a brand new
8 industry in the area and so we'd be interested in
9 hosting a few training programs through various
10 levels of educational facilities including
11 vocational school, community colleges and that sort
12 of thing. We did get a socioeconomic report
13 generated out of a firm based in Yarmouth, Maine,
14 and that socioeconomic report boils down -- when you
15 consider the multipliers and all that sort of stuff
16 for a project like this to around 7 hundred million
17 in total economic output for the project.

18 So, what does the employment look like? I know
19 it's a little bit tough to see, but this table,
20 essentially, represents the high level, you know,
21 the jobs that we're going to look to fill. At the
22 top it's kind of like senior management and then
23 getting into more administrative and technical
24 staff, so accounting, human resources, engineering
25 geology, environmental sciences; all that good

1 stuff. And then getting into surveying and that
2 sort of thing and then ultimately where the bulk of
3 the employment comes from is the underground work.
4 And, so, when we're considering employment
5 underground I think it's important to note that
6 these skill sets already exist in the state. So,
7 equipment operators, those skill sets exist in the
8 state. Construction workers, silver work, cement,
9 mechanic, welders, everything like that exist here
10 already. So, all of those positions that are in
11 kind of the bulk of the work force are what I
12 believe skill sets that are existing in this area
13 already. And, what those training courses would
14 focus on is taking the skill sets that exist in the
15 state already and then adding to that knowledge of
16 the environment that you'd be working in. So,
17 understanding that working in an underground tunnel
18 is a little bit different than working in the
19 forestry industry.

20 So, in terms of the schedule. All I want to
21 get to on this slide is that there are multiple
22 steps along the way. We're at the, sort of, first
23 of several and it's about a 4-to-5 year permitting
24 process depending on everything goes tickety-boo and
25 then we would be 2 year construction phase, 10-to-15

1 year operating phase, 2 to 3 years of reclamation
2 post operation and then monitoring in perpetuity.
3 And, that is my introduction to Pickett.

4 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. If you want to
5 speak this evening and have not signed up to do so,
6 please see one of the LUPC staff, so if you want to
7 speak you need to get on the list. Each speaker
8 will have three minutes. Let me just pause for a
9 second and give you some idea because a lot of you
10 probably haven't spoken in public in long time; or,
11 maybe ever. If you have something prepared, like, a
12 written statement, if it's a couple of pages double
13 spaced, you might have time to read it in 3 minutes.
14 If it's a single page double spaced you're in great
15 shape. If it's a single page single space you're
16 pushing the boundary line, okay? Just to give you a
17 reference point. If you do have prepared remarks
18 and you realize maybe you've gone overboard with
19 them, I suggest that you look back through your
20 written comments and try and highlight the things
21 that you want to talk about in the three minutes and
22 then submit the written copies to Audie Arbo who is
23 sitting here in front of us. At this time I would
24 ask all persons planning to testify this evening to
25 stand and raise your right hand. Do you swear that

1 the testimony you are about to give is the whole
2 truth and nothing but the truth?

3 SPEAKERS: (Collectively) I do.

4 MR. WORCESTER: You may be seated. Now we're
5 going to be calling people up one by one. What we
6 have done -- oh. You've got the spaces filled.
7 Good for you.

8 When the first speaker -- we're going to call
9 people up. Audie is going to read your name and you
10 come up to the speakers -- the platform -- and what
11 you want to tell us is, please clearly identify
12 yourself by name and place of residence and whether
13 what you represent another individual, firm or legal
14 entity before beginning your testimony, speak
15 clearly so that an accurate account of this
16 proceeding may be recorded and to ensure that your
17 comments can be considered. And I've already gone
18 over the part about written testimony. Any
19 questions before we start? Audie, the first person.

20 MS. ARBO: I apologize if I butcher your name.
21 I'm going to try hard to get them right. The first
22 person is Trey Stewart.

23 TREY STEWART: Good evening, Commissioner
24 Worcester, Counsel Elwell and distinguished members
25 of the Land Use Planning Commission. My name is

1 Harold Stewart, but most folks call me Trey. I'm a
2 resident of Presque Isle, Maine and I currently
3 represent District 2 in the Maine Senate which
4 includes, roughly, 50 communities in Northern Maine.
5 My district is a wide swath of Northern Aroostook
6 and Northern Penobscot County including Hersey, Mt.
7 Chase, Patten and Moro Plantation which are the
8 counties immediately adjacent to the project site.
9 I'm here with you tonight in Millinocket because I
10 believe in this project. I first met Jeremy
11 Ouellette and the Wolfden team over 2 years ago; and
12 through a series of meetings these folks have
13 answered every question I've had along the way.
14 I'll address what I feel are the policy reasons for
15 supporting this project, but first I'd like to talk
16 about my personal experience as a resident of
17 Aroostook County.

18 I'm 29 years old and I've lived the bulk of my
19 life on State Street in Presque Isle the Star City.
20 Eleven years removed from high school I can count
21 more of my friends from the class of 2012 who have
22 moved away rather than those who stayed in Maine --
23 in northern Maine. Mind you that Presque Isle is a
24 service center for dozens of smaller communities
25 where attractive employment is even less

1 significant. Here's what I'm getting at: We should
2 be embracing every opportunity when it comes to
3 career opportunities for our family and for the
4 future.

5 As a state senator this project is even more
6 appealing because it will serve as a first test of
7 what I understand to be the most environmental
8 conscientious mining statute in the developed world;
9 one that I supported previously served in the House.
10 I'm currently in my 7th year serving in the State of
11 Maine, in the Maine legislature and rarely have I
12 had a piece of legislation that was supported by
13 both political parties; the environmental advocacy
14 and the Maine business community. These Chapter 200
15 mining rules allow for a new business opportunity in
16 our working forest, but with considerable protection
17 for our natural resources. This is the type of
18 balance that I wholeheartedly support and that
19 Northern Maine needs.

20 Over these 3 days you'll undoubtedly hear about
21 the need to protect the valuable resources in the
22 North Maine woods and I couldn't agree more. In
23 fact, my family has a multi-generational camp that
24 we use up there and my favorite days are the ones
25 enjoyed there. I've got a personal vested interest

1 in protecting this asset. However, I would ask that
2 you remember in addition to our woods and waters,
3 perhaps our most precious resource is that of our
4 Northern Maine people. I respectfully ask that you
5 listen to the support that you hear from the folks
6 who live in these communities. These folks support
7 the rezoning application and are interested to see
8 the project move forward to the next phase. I'm
9 here today to join these voices and ask that you
10 please approve this petition. Thank you very much
11 for your time and consideration.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. Next?

13 MS. ARBO: Kathy Javner.

14 KATHY JAVNER: Good evening, Chair Worcester,
15 Commissioners. I am Kathy Javner, representative of
16 District 29 which consists of Chester, Woodville
17 Medway, East Millinocket, Millinocket, Patten, Mt.
18 Chase, North Penobscot, Herseytown Township, Long A
19 Township, Grindstone Township and Soldiertown
20 Township. And Chester is my hometown.

21 My interest in this project in T6-R6 has grown
22 over the last year and a half. I spoke with Jeremy
23 Ouellette 18 months ago. I had several questions
24 about the potential environmental impacts of the
25 project, the company's commitment in creating a

1 local workforce and their quality of jobs that would
2 be offered during this project. I greatly
3 appreciate the due diligence that the company has
4 undertaken regarding outreach in the Katahdin area,
5 especially the areas in immediate proximity to this
6 proposed site. Through conversations with the
7 petitioner company and with several businesses and
8 constituents in the host communities, I've come to
9 the conclusion that the company should be granted
10 this request for rezoning and are allowed to move to
11 the DEP permitting phase of their project. My
12 understanding of Maine's Chapter 200 law passed with
13 bipartisan support including an override of Governor
14 LePage's Veto in 2017 is that our legislature has
15 effectively established the most environmentally
16 stringent mining regulations in the world. I looked
17 at the required water quality monitoring processes
18 as well as the required financial commitment for any
19 foreseeable reclamation efforts and I'm comfortable
20 that should the DEP eventually allow this mine to go
21 forward Wolfden will have proven beyond the shadow
22 of a doubt that their processes for protecting the
23 water and the ecosystem are rock solid. I'd like to
24 think of Maine as a national leader. So when I hear
25 most stringent in the world is the standard that we

1 are working with to protect our natural resources,
2 that makes me feel comfortable supporting the
3 project. The employment opportunities that would be
4 available working on this type of mine are high
5 skill, high-wage jobs. Wolfden is committed to
6 hosting a 14-week training program sited at the
7 community colleges and the regional vocational and
8 technical high schools which would provide a new
9 opportunity for graduating students interested in a
10 skilled labor trade. I've heard scepticism in the
11 form of where are we going to get people to do these
12 jobs; and it's a bit disturbing to hear that. Think
13 of the number of talented young people that you know
14 that are 18, 19, 20 years old who are traveling to
15 work on a rig in the Gulf of Mexico or working
16 construction in the southern United States for top
17 dollar. This is a way at to help a good number of
18 our young people stay in the Katahdin Region after
19 graduating high school and start a life here.

20 Finally, I feel compelled to voice my
21 frustration regarding the letter sent by several of
22 my legislative colleagues from Wel -- thank you.

23 MR. WORCESTER: You can wrap up briefly if
24 you'd like.

25 KATHY JAVNER: Thank you very much. I

1 appreciate that. I will read this very quickly
2 because I feel it's very important to my
3 constituents. Finally, I feel compelled to voice my
4 frustrations regarding a letter sent by several of
5 my legislative colleagues from -- let's just say not
6 from here -- this communication sent to the
7 honorable members of this Commission made it clear
8 that the most who have signed that letter have very
9 limited understanding of life here in rural Maine.
10 Sending such a letter is apropos of the type of
11 behaviors we see every day at the State House;
12 Portland's solution for rural Maine economic needs.
13 I personally commute round trip from Chester to
14 Augusta 127 and a half miles one way on a regular
15 basis during session. I respect your decision to
16 hold an additional public hearing in Bangor which I
17 will also be in attendance for, but I ask that you
18 place significant weight in the words of the folks
19 that you'll hear from over these 2 nights in
20 Millinocket, folks from Patten, Mt. Chase, Moro
21 Plantation, East Millinocket, those who have sat
22 through several informational sessions and have
23 developed a trust in the folks who are in the
24 project area. I thank you for your time tonight and
25 your willingness to serve the people of rural Maine.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. ARBO: Up next is Jonathan Kinney and then
3 Joseph Underwood and if Alice Bolstridge can come.
4 When I call your name as on deck if you could come
5 sit up front so we can move it along. That's why
6 I'm going to call you early.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Jonathan
8 Kinney and I represent myself. Good evening,
9 Commissioner Worcester, Counselor Elwell and
10 distinguished members and staff with the Land Use
11 Planning Commission. My name is Jonathan Kinney.
12 I'm a veteran of the United States Coast Guard and I
13 served 3 terms in the Maine House of
14 Representatives. I'm a resident of Buxton, but own
15 a camp not too far from Boyd Lake and I will be
16 heading there this evening.

17 I join you tonight as a member of the Joint
18 Standing Committee on environments and natural
19 resources during the 128th Maine Legislature. That
20 endured many long days and nights hearing public
21 testimony and grinding through work sessions that
22 eventually arrive to what was then LD820, an act to
23 protect Maine's clean water and tax payers from
24 pollution which would eventually become the updated
25 Chapter 200, the law that will govern this project

1 should you allow this private property to be rezoned
2 following these procedures. I'm not here tonight as
3 someone from down state that wants to tell folks in
4 northern Maine how they should manage their own
5 working forest. I suspect you'll hear from plenty
6 of those folks. I do enjoy spending time in
7 Northern Maine and even getting some bird hunting
8 tomorrow, but that's not why I'm here. I felt
9 compelled to drive up here tonight because I wanted
10 to provide history as to how we got here. Chapter
11 200 is a piece of legislation that we should be very
12 proud of. This bill came to be law over the veto of
13 Governor Paul LePage who thought the new law
14 regulations were too significant. This bill was
15 supported by the Natural Resources Council of Maine,
16 The Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club and the
17 Environmental Priorities Coalition who all testified
18 and supported this proposal which is now the law
19 that governs the approval of this project should the
20 Commission allow Wolfden to move forward. I suspect
21 that you will hear from some of these groups this
22 week in opposition of the rezoning proposal that
23 would allow this project to move forward. If in
24 fact Chapter 200 is the stringent regulations that
25 my colleagues voted into law in 2017. I ask that

1 you allow this company to move forward by approving
2 this application for rezoning and I thank you very
3 very for the opportunity to speak tonight on this
4 very important matter. Thank you.

5 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

6 MS. ARBO: Up next is Joseph Underwood followed
7 by Alice Bolstridge and if Todd Martin can come up
8 front.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Chairman
10 Worcester and distinguished members of the
11 Committee. My name is Joseph Underwood and I'm a
12 district representative for District 5 which is
13 Presque Isle. And, it's been a pleasant drive down
14 and hopefully it will be a pleasant drive back.

15 Wolfden Resources has a strong record of
16 production of minerals with 2 ongoing projects in
17 Manitoba; Rice Island near the town of Snow Lake and
18 the Nickel Island Project. A third property, the
19 Tetagouche Property, near Bathurst New Brunswick, is
20 a property with an easy travel distance from here.
21 Wolfden has a very strong experience record of
22 working with regulators. Maine has the most
23 stringent laws regarding mining in the United
24 States. They have been designed and written by the
25 legislature and implemented by agencies and

1 commissions like yourselves. Wolfden Resources has
2 invested at least \$100,000 on this application and
3 should have the opportunity to proceed with a rezone
4 of the property to a plan development subcategory of
5 D dash PD. This subdistrict classification would
6 allow for metallic mineral mining. The Land Use
7 Regulation Commission rules in this sets the
8 definition of D dash PD subcategory and it's my
9 belief that this application meets this definition.
10 A new subdivision classification will have no
11 adverse effect or impact on the current use. This
12 reclassification is appropriate for current usage.
13 Maine has a great opportunity presented to them for
14 mining materials, minerals like copper, lead, zinc,
15 gold and silver. Approval of this application would
16 be leadership and is setting a new standard for
17 responsibility in this field in the United States.
18 These impacts would be felt in northern Maine with
19 an estimated output of seven hundred million dollars
20 area wide. Northern Maine International Airport,
21 which is in Presque Isle, is a top notch airport
22 that can be used for movement of equipment to and
23 from this mining operation. The possible job pool
24 extends into Maine with the University of Maine at
25 Fort Kent and the University of Maine at Presque

1 Isle. Northern Maine Community College is an
2 excellent institution for establishing and
3 implementing programs geared specifically for this
4 project. Recently the 114th conference of the New
5 England Intercollegiate Geological Conference was
6 held at Presque Isle. Two tectonic belts were
7 identified in Northern Maine. These belts
8 identified minerals that were present for the past
9 200 years. Four of the top mineral deposits in
10 Maine is in Aroostook County. In conclusion, this
11 rezoning request ought to pass.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Next up is Alice Bolstridge with
14 Todd Martin on deck and if Chris Carr could come up
15 front.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Alice Bolstridge from
17 Presque Isle, Maine. I was born in Portage Lake
18 near Bald Mountain site considered for a mine like
19 the one we've seen proposed at Pickett Mountain.
20 For more than a decade I've been researching the
21 risks and benefits of metallic mineral mining and
22 testifying in opposition to plans that propose
23 unacceptable risks to the environment in Maine's wet
24 climate. In 3 minutes I can't talk about all the
25 worries I have about this proposed mine so I'll

1 focus on the threat to waters surrounding the site.
2 Wolden's application lists numerous water bodies
3 there; recreational water areas within 3 miles of
4 the project area that includes one lake, four ponds
5 and a river. Inside the project area are 29
6 wetlands, 22 water courses, 8 vernal pools and 2
7 potential vernal pools. Mine infrastructure, the
8 application says, will be sited at least 75 feet
9 away from wetlands, stream and vernal pools to avoid
10 direct impact to these resources during construction
11 and mine operations. Within three miles is about
12 the distance of a one-hour walk even for me at 85
13 years old and 75 feet is about the length of my
14 small backyard. Since water always flows downward
15 with the force of gravity, how can those distances
16 possibly prevent toxic pollution from reaching all
17 that water? Wolden promises his water treatment
18 approach will be returned clean treated water back
19 to the environment and will maintain current water
20 quality within the project area down gradient water
21 bodies. I have looked for and never found an
22 example of a metallic mineral mine anywhere in the
23 world that lived up to promises like that. At every
24 forum on this subject that I have attended over
25 these years I have asked for an example of a mine

1 that has not polluted surrounding waters with toxic
2 chemicals. Every example given proves to be false
3 when I follow up with research. And in the
4 pre-filed testimony says the aqua filtration and
5 reverse osmosis Wolfden proposes can in theory
6 produce high quality effluence. The phrase in
7 theory is important because as she goes on to say:
8 Wolfden provides no example of a comparable mine
9 that accomplishes the level required. If I had more
10 time I would talk about false promises made for
11 economic and community benefit. Instead I'll close
12 with these thoughts. Metallic mining closures leave
13 communities economically, socially and
14 environmentally depressed. This kind of mining is
15 among the dirtiest industries in the world. There
16 has never been such a mine anywhere that lives up to
17 promises of economic benefits and environmental
18 safety. Please do not rezone this area.
19 Documentary sources are included to support my
20 opinions if you need them. Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next is Todd Martin with Chris
22 Cayer on deck and if Nick Mullins would come up
23 front, please.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Chairman
25 Worcester, members of the Land Use Planning

1 Commission. My name is Todd Martin and I live in
2 Winslow, Maine and I'm the Northeast Senior Program
3 Manager for the National Parks Conservation
4 Association; our country's largest nonprofit
5 advocate for our national parks service site since
6 1919. On behalf of our 7,000 members in Maine and
7 1.6 million members across the country. I'm here
8 tonight to urge you to deny Wolfden's application to
9 rezine 374 acres in T6-R-6 and the unorganized
10 territories of Pickett Mountain for their dangerous
11 zinc mine. After reading Wolfden's application
12 thoroughly it's abundantly clear that their mining
13 proposal is a serious threat to the dark skies, to
14 the quiet solitude, the view shed, the endangered
15 species of the Katahdin Woods and Water National
16 Monument whose border is just 7 miles from the
17 proposed mining operation. Metallic mining on
18 Pickett Mountain threatens the clean waters of the
19 Penobscot watershed. According to the Maine
20 Geological Survey Pickett Mountain contains an
21 indicated and inferred resource of 5 million metric
22 tons of sulfide. When it's exposed to air, rain,
23 and/or snow sulfide-rich tailings from the mine
24 would create sulfuric mine drainage polluting nearby
25 state heritage waters, the west branch of the

1 Mattawamkeag River and in turn the Penobscot River.
2 While polluted water from the mine is not expected
3 to flow through the three rivers within the National
4 Monument, we stand in solidarity with the Penobscot
5 Indian Nation as this mine threatens their sacred
6 river and the millions of dollars and hard work that
7 was put into restore endangered Atlantic salmon into
8 those waters. Furthermore, Wolfden refuses to
9 demonstrate where it will site its ore concentration
10 and tailings management facility off site. This is
11 crucial information that LUPC must know to fully
12 evaluate their rezoning petition. The Katahdin
13 Woods and Waters National Monument is the only
14 International Dark Sky sanctuary east of the
15 Mississippi River and only the second national park
16 to achieve that designation. Future plans in the
17 Monument call for night sky viewing infrastructure
18 on the Seboeis Parcel of the Monument which is just
19 7 miles of this proposed mine. Light pollution from
20 the mining operation would pollute the darkest sky
21 east of the Mississippi and could risk the Monument
22 losing its designation as an International Dark Sky
23 sanctuary. We're also deeply concerned that blasts
24 from explosive magazines, rock crushing with heavy
25 machinery and construction noise will disrupt the

1 quiet solitude in the Monument. With 55 ore-laden
2 dump trucks traveling Route 11 each day to the
3 yet-to-be-sited ore concentration and tailing
4 management facility that will disrupt the peaceful
5 gateway communities and the visitors experiencing as
6 folks come to this region to escape the hustle and
7 bustle or urban areas. Visitors flock to this
8 region of Maine to escape that noise. The National
9 Monument welcomed 43,000 visitors last year who
10 spent three million dollars in the local economy.
11 Baxter State Park welcomed 64,000 visitors who also
12 spent millions locally. An industrial operation in
13 the middle of Maine's most famous outdoor recreation
14 destination is a direct threat to this region and to
15 our economy. And, time is up. Thank you for your
16 time.

17 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

18 MS. ARBO: Up next Chris Cayer with Nick
19 Mullins on deck and if Mike Reddy could come up
20 front.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thanks for letting me speak
22 tonight. My name is Chris and I live in a small
23 town here in Maine of 600 people just 30 minutes
24 from the Canadian Border. Someone asked me today
25 when I came in if I was from the city which I

1 thought was funny because Millinocket is the city
2 where we're from. Took off work a little early
3 today to be here because when we heard what was
4 happening we felt we had to voice our opposition.
5 I'm here to urge the panel to consider the long-term
6 impacts that this decision will have on the
7 environment and the people who live here in Maine.
8 The woods and waters are our most precious resources
9 here and we rely on the State's natural beauty and
10 pristine environment to draw in business for the
11 State. I went to business school here in Maine at
12 the University of Maine. Got to learn about
13 sustainable business where companies could be not
14 just financially sustainable but also
15 environmentally sustainable and responsible for the
16 community. Too often corporations exploit an area's
17 natural resources and pollute the surrounding land
18 and water. They make short-term gains when we're
19 left paying the long-term costs. They even have a
20 name for this. It's called externality. These are
21 the costs passed onto our community and the State
22 even though we don't share in the profit. The cost
23 of sulfide mining on our environment is too high.
24 Sulfuric acid is a byproduct of sulfide mining and
25 can lead to acid mine drainage a process that kills

1 and entire ecosystem and could take hundreds or even
2 thousands of years to fix. I learned today there
3 are Roman mines that are still dumping sulfuric acid
4 into the environment 2000 years later. Please don't
5 mortgage our future for this short-sided proposal.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. ARBO: Up next is Nick Mullins and if we
8 could have Mike Reddy on deck and if Kelly Merrill
9 could come up front, please.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Members of the Land Use
11 Planning Commission, members of the public in
12 attendance, my name is Nick Mullins. I'm a husband,
13 a father and a former 5th generation underground
14 coal miner from central Appalachia. In the last 12
15 years my family has been searching for a new home
16 because of the negative impacts of mining, including
17 acidic mine drainage. Over 100 years ago coal was
18 discovered in abundance beneath our lands and
19 investors came from all over the United States to
20 purchase mineral rights and land from our ancestors.
21 They promised our great-great-great-grandparents
22 that they'd never know anything was being mined from
23 beneath their properties and it wouldn't be until
24 generations later that we realized the true costs of
25 those unethical land deals. Once the mining has

1 started the region became a wasteland full of
2 intense poverty, suffering, opioid abuse and
3 sickness. The mining companies still tell us that
4 their industry is beneficial to our communities.
5 They tell us that they follow all state and federal
6 regulations and they clean up their messes, but the
7 damage that they do is irreparable. They might be
8 able to put the rock back and the dirt back. They
9 might be able to put fertilizers on the surface and
10 reclamation, but you can't fix what was done
11 underneath to the underlying hydrology. My family
12 learned that the hard way. My great-grandfather
13 built the initial catch box for our family's spring.
14 From it pure Appalachian Mountain water flowed
15 filling our thousand-gallon reservoir every night.
16 It supplied our homes with 50 PSI of pure mountain
17 water with no need for pumps, but in 2000 a mining
18 company came along and disturbed that aquifer. Once
19 they did that we started seeing acidic mine drainage
20 coming out of our spring. It is now unusable and it
21 gives us nothing but contaminates. Once it was done
22 it was done at least -- unless anyone here can tell
23 us how to fix our mountain spring. Our spring is
24 only one of tens of thousands that have been
25 permanently destroyed due to mining. Now and for

1 hundreds of years into the future they will release
2 acidic mine drainage with high concentrations of
3 metals, minerals and contaminants that will affect
4 downstream creeks and rivers for generations to
5 come. The company continues to deny any
6 responsibility for these actions and in 2016 they
7 even enlisted their friend, the 45th president of
8 the United States, Donald Trump, to halt a public
9 health inquiry that would have exposed the negative
10 impacts of mining to our region. Companies like
11 these have millions of dollars at their disposal and
12 powerful friends at all levels of government through
13 trade associations. They hire public relations
14 firms and professionals to come in and learn about
15 your community. They tell you all the things that
16 you want to hear.

17 MR. WORCESTER: Can you please wrap it up.

18 NICK MULLINS: They will promise tax revenues,
19 jobs and any number of other potential socioeconomic
20 benefits, but once the minerals are gone, once the
21 damage becomes apparent and the water starts turning
22 colors those economic benefits will become
23 meaningless. Whatever short-term economic gains you
24 will get will be spend fighting cancer, kidney
25 diseases and whatever other problems that come up

1 with your children's future. All I can say is
2 Commissioners, people of the public, if you let this
3 happen you're not going to let the future
4 generations get very far. Thank you.

5 MS. ARBO: Up next is Mike Reddy with Kelly
6 Merrill on deck and if Jared Bornstein -- I can't
7 read this writing -- could come up.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Michael
9 Reddy. I hate public speaking. I'm terrified of
10 this so forgive me. I'm going to speak fast. I
11 split my time between Dresden, Maine, where I own
12 property and Northeast Vermont and I lived in
13 Pembroke when we passed an ordinance there to stop
14 Wolfden. Throughout the proceedings we've been told
15 that the LUPC needs to allow Wolfden to move onto
16 the Chapter 200 process in order to do more detailed
17 studies. The detailed studies that would actually
18 provide the evidence were necessary to show whether
19 or not it is possible to rezone and ensure that no
20 undue adverse impacts will take place. But in
21 Crux's investment video of February 21 Ron Little
22 was asked: Are you restricted by this rezoning
23 component yourself? His answer: It's really a
24 self-imposed restriction. We're not trying to
25 overdo it until we've got an indication that we're

1 through rezoning. This rezoning is about securing
2 funding, a takeover premium, not about securing the
3 wellbeing of Mainers or their natural environment.
4 Ron Little has claimed there's nothing north of
5 Bangor but moose and trees. If they have the gall
6 to tell us what we need and put us in the tenuous
7 position of being dependent upon them in
8 international financial markets. They promise jobs,
9 but we know they speak with forked tongues. Page
10 499 of Wolfden's application states: Despite lower
11 income only 59.6 and 62.0 percent of households in
12 Houlton LMA and Millinocket LMA respectively could
13 afford to purchase a medium-priced home in their
14 area compared to 38.4 percent statewide. 48.9
15 percent of renters -- renter households in
16 Millinocket could afford the medium rent in 2020
17 compared to 45 percent statewide. In Houlton 49.2
18 percent could afford the average rent in 2017
19 compared to 45 statewide. Their promised jobs are 7
20 days on and 7 days off the industry standard to
21 allow fly-in and fly-out miners, not to facilitate
22 hiring locals. While some business owners might see
23 increased revenues the money Wolfden's out-of-state
24 miners make will actually drive up rents and make it
25 more expensive for locals to stay put. Wolfden's

1 application is full of contradictions -- I'm never
2 going to finish in a minute so I'll just wrap it
3 up -- on Page 118 he claims that rocks would be
4 blasted into manageable-size fragments that can be
5 loaded into underground trucks or into the skiff and
6 hauled or hoisted to the surface. Yet 2 pages later
7 he writes: All mined ore will be crushed
8 underground and then trucks will then transport the
9 crushed ore and waste rock to the storage pads.
10 It's a huge implication -- the difference is huge
11 because of the acid-generating potential of the
12 crushed ore and the potential for the dust from the
13 crushed ore to spread contaminants at the surface.
14 There's so many contradictions, but I'll submit
15 written testimony that provides more examples. I
16 ask the staff and the public to oppose rezoning and
17 not rely on the DEP to protect us and our future.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

20 MS. ARBO: All right. Up next is Kelly Merrill
21 with Jared Bornstein up on deck and if John Kelleher
22 can come up.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening members of the
24 Land Use Planning Commission and fellow Mainers. My
25 name is Kelly Merrill. I have the privilege of

1 living and working in the Northwest Mountains of
2 this state. I'm here as an environmental activist
3 and a devoted spiritual practitioner to defend the
4 land and water and to speak against the harmful
5 destructive processes that desecrate the planet and
6 extinguish life for short-term gain. I'm here in
7 solidarity with the Wabanaki people and with life.
8 I'll also tell you who I'm not. I'm not someone
9 paid to be here. I wasn't a heckler -- as suggested
10 earlier -- bussed in from the city. I live in a
11 rural city on the northwestern border of the state
12 and I worry about such damage in my town. Wolfden
13 and its investors are responsible for mercury
14 contamination and for clean water act violations
15 numbering in the thousands; contaminating the land
16 and the water for past and future generations.
17 Recent years environmental rollbacks have made the
18 north woods vulnerable. The proposed mine will harm
19 subsistence hunting, fishing and foraging. It will,
20 as mines do, irrevocably and permanently harm the
21 land, the water that sits around it and the life in
22 it. The EPA calls metallic mining the most
23 polluting industry in North America. Wolfden will
24 be no exception. There has never been a sulfide
25 mine that hasn't contaminated groundwater.

1 Wolfden's job is just to spin a tale to justify
2 their extraction and minimize the danger, but this
3 process leaches mercury and arsenic into our land
4 and water. Further, it will introduce millions of
5 pounds of cyanide into the pristine wilderness and
6 critical waterways and tribal trust land. I'm
7 wondering how the critical mineral list holds up the
8 endangered species list. I'm wondering how they
9 rate the importance to the Atlantic salmon and brook
10 trout and our ways of being. I'll add, that should
11 clean up be required, Wolfden has only committed to
12 what amounts to 2 percent of its anticipated profits
13 to remediation. The company would then be free to
14 walk away after causing irreparable damage. I urge
15 you to deny Wolfden this application to mine Pickett
16 Mountain. Thank you.

17 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

18 MS. ARBO: Next up if Jared Bornstein followed
19 by John Kelleher and if Brian Burger could come up
20 front, please.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
22 Jared Bornstein. I'm a guide and a lodge owner in
23 Sherman which is just south of where this proposed
24 mine is. I am also a political consultant and a
25 proud Democrat and I feel it's important to say that

1 because I feel this has taken on sort of partisan
2 bend and I want people to know in this room that I'm
3 not paid to be here. I'm here because I care about
4 the community that I've invested in. I want to level
5 set with everybody here. We have a choice. We have
6 a choice between Wolfden or we have a choice between
7 illegal gold miners in South America. We have a
8 choice between Wolfden or we have a choice between
9 cobalt mines in Africa because our phones, our
10 microphones, our TVs, everybody's electronics, our
11 electric cars that we all want, they all require
12 these metals. We don't have a choice whether we use
13 the metals or not. This is where we are as a
14 society. What we do have a choice for, what you
15 have a choice here today is whether Wolfden gets to
16 have the most state-of-the-art mining facility in
17 Maine or whether we rely on China to supply all our
18 minerals for electronics. Again, everything that we
19 use. I mean, it's all over. Look at all the cords
20 we have. That's copper and that comes out of the
21 ground. We can't avoid it anymore. And I need to
22 tell you that the reason that I am here supporting
23 Wolfden most stringently today is because when I
24 drive my lodge in Sherman to go get Groceries at
25 Ellis' in Patten, I see almost as many abandoned

1 houses as I do full houses. I see people struggling
2 every day to put food on the table. The average
3 household income in Maine is around \$62,000. It's
4 not very much. When a project comes to town and
5 says we're going to do this responsibly. We're
6 going to do this for the community. We're going to
7 invest in infrastructure and local paying jobs.
8 There's full companies that create roads for
9 logging. These are the same sorts of contractors
10 who are going to be used. They're going to use the
11 existing infrastructure and we need to really think
12 about, do we want to have local mines that we have
13 control over? Is that where we want to get our
14 metal? Or do we want women and children in Africa
15 in bare feet mining cobalt? You have the choice
16 here today whether it's between those mines or these
17 mines and I strongly encourage you to approve their
18 application and let them move forward to the DEP
19 permitting process. Thank you so much.

20 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next is John Kelleher followed by
22 Brian Burger and if Chris Johansen can come up
23 front.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening Ladies and
25 Gentlemen, Board members. My name is John Kelleher

1 and I live at Mt. Chase. I opposes the rezoning
2 Wolfden's Pickett Mountain parcel from cabin
3 occupancy to mining. The potential for irreversible
4 damage to the Mattawamkeag River watershed, the
5 potential pollution to local wells increase a carbon
6 footprint and the fact that this mine is three miles
7 from my house in Wels, I strongly urge you to deny
8 this. The damage to the local flora and fauna far
9 outweighs the short-term economic benefit to the
10 region. I was in a discussion with a local business
11 person recently and they're pro mine and they
12 thought property rights -- these people own 9,000
13 acres. They should be able to do what they want
14 with it. And, I agree. You should be able to do
15 what you want with your land, but when it comes in
16 and effects the health and welfare of the people
17 that abut it, of the watershed, of the flora and
18 fauna I totally disagree with the mining of Pickett
19 Mountain. That's all. Thank you.

20 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next is Brian Burger with Chris
22 Johansen on deck and if Pete Connolly can come up
23 front, please.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening LUPC and
25 audience. My name is Brian Burger and I'm a

1 resident of Moro Plantation. I'll try to avoid
2 technicalities and false choices, but focus on
3 reflection. My academic background is in
4 environmental sciences. I've worked 30-plus years
5 in the fish wildlife and environmental protection
6 and almost 25 years in the US Military. I also
7 volunteered for 15 years in the local regional land
8 use planning. Personally I've endured a nearly
9 20-year battle in my previous home, homestead in new
10 mining activities that came after I built. This is
11 kind of Deja Vu. Kind of PTSD. I've been involved
12 and witnessed many mining activities both historical
13 and existing through much of my professional life.
14 I've never witnessed a community or a eco-region
15 that benefitted -- truly benefited from mining in
16 the long term. I'm not here to necessarily denounce
17 everything that Wolfden has said. I've met with
18 many of these people. They're gentle people. It's
19 a long climb uphill to do as they propose.
20 Nonrenewable resource extraction has a long, storied
21 and templated history of changing ownership,
22 decreasing attention to responsible activity and
23 ultimately taxpayer burdens of legacy problems and
24 damages. Tourism and recreational activities in the
25 area of resource extraction continue only to the

1 extent that the lands waters and wildlife may
2 continue and that users will tolerate a spoiled
3 area. Mining does not equate to timber management.
4 While small temporary economic gains may occur to a
5 select few the community loses and the personal real
6 estate loses value. A community becomes depressed
7 in the long term from direct and indirect effects of
8 mining. Environmental stewardship lessens over
9 time. Depression and futility become the public
10 norm for mood, expression and futurism. While the
11 LUPC may focus now on the sterile subject of land
12 use, they're truly paving -- or not -- the path for
13 the wellbeing of people, creatures and this
14 landscape.

15 MR. WORCESTER: Can you please finish.

16 BRIAN BURGER: Yes, sir. Processing roots
17 conditions and locations are integral to this entire
18 process. There's been no declaration as to where
19 the processing is going to occur and I think that's
20 hugely a part of the decision that needs to be made
21 here. Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Would you like to submit your
23 comments?

24 BRIAN BURGER: I will do that.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Chris Johansen with Pete
2 Connolly. And I apologize for this one, but Denis
3 Burt, maybe. If they could come up front.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'll send you a copy. I had
5 a system failure between my computer and my printer
6 and I'm not going to leave you with this. My name
7 is Chris Johansen. I live in Ludlow, Maine, and I'm
8 representing myself. Good evening. Thank you. We
9 are all responsible for pollution anywhere in the
10 world. If you use a product that elements are mined
11 in Senegal or anywhere else you are responsible for
12 the pollution. I don't believe you'll hear anybody
13 here today saying they will not use clean energy,
14 cell phones or any other product made from the
15 metals and minerals mined here. If you'd like to
16 use these products, then step up to the responsible
17 mining done right here where it will be done
18 according with our standards and where we can keep
19 an eye on it. I've been to most of the hearings on
20 this issue and I've yet to hear any scientific
21 reason why this mine would be dangerous to our
22 environment. In 2014 the Maine legislature and
23 other NGOs; Nongovernmental Organizations including
24 the Natural Resources Council passed new money
25 regulations that they said that would prevent anyone

1 from mining in Maine. That was their goal and
2 that's what they were bragging about when they put
3 this in. From the National Resources Council website
4 the headliner: Maine. Home of the Nations
5 strictest mining laws. Wolfden's mines have put
6 forth a plan to operate a mine according to Maine's
7 strictest in the nation mining laws. In closing, I
8 fully support the plan put forth by Wolfden with the
9 caveat that as a self-appointed watchdog I will
10 continue to monitor the operation up there at
11 Pickett. Thank you for your patience.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Up next is Pete Connolly followed by
14 Denis Burt and then if Chuck Loucra could come
15 forward.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Pete Connolly and I live
17 in Island Falls representing myself. My
18 great-grandchildren are the 8th generation to be in
19 Island Falls since 1840. We love Maine. We love
20 the community. We love the resources. We need
21 jobs. We need world-class training. We need
22 business in Aroostook County. We have dying. I
23 know mines. I'm a mechanical engineer. I lived in
24 Joplin, Missouri. We've had mines there for 100
25 years. It is proven technology. It's not rocket

1 science. It's proven. 90 percent of our zinc is
2 imported into the United States. We need zinc. 35
3 percent comes from China. We can have that from
4 Maine. America needs zinc mines. Maine needs jobs.
5 Your approval simply let this process move forward
6 so they can dig -- core more. Make sure it's
7 economically viable and we end up with -- if they're
8 successful after five years of investigation they
9 dig the hole and we get 230 jobs in Patten. That's
10 a home run. That's jobs for all of our kids, all of
11 our families, all of our friends. Follow the
12 science. In America there's 14 mines, six owners in
13 six states. They are not polluting today. They are
14 not destroying lives. They are not -- in general,
15 the EPA is all over them watching everything they
16 do. Go to those towns in the Middle Tennessee mine
17 off one of the Interstates. 50 miles to Nashville
18 where a million people live. They've got 325
19 employees. They've been there 50 years. They're
20 incredibly, environmentally responsible. Go about
21 40 miles to the East Tennessee mine. Eight hundred
22 thousand people live in Knoxville 20 miles away.
23 It's been there 70 years. They have had no loss of
24 jobs. They've had no land and water pollution.
25 They've had no pollution to crops. They've had --

1 everybody and their cousin is watching them. They
2 are located in pristine areas. Mines work. Zinc
3 mines are simple compared to mining. So, I would
4 say, please. Move this process forward. If they
5 run into bad economics it gets killed next year or
6 the year after or the company will kill it. Please
7 let this move forward. This is not new technology.
8 This is proven. We need this in Maine. Thank you.

9 MS. ARBO: Up next is Dennis Burt followed by
10 Chuck Loucra and then it's Chuck Leimhiser you can
11 come up front.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Dennis Brackett.
13 I live in Patten, Maine. I was born here and lived
14 here for -- all my life; 61 years. And right off
15 the bat I am a true sportsman. I know this area.
16 Twenty five years ago I worked for a woods
17 contractor in there. I fished Pleasant Lake,
18 Pickett Mountain, Mud Lake. I hunt. I
19 recreation -- snow sleds and ATVs. I just ride
20 through and look at the leaves, so, I do know this
21 area, but I also know that we need jobs. And, what
22 I understand I try to go to both sides of the
23 meetings and get as much education as I could. I
24 went to the computers. I've listened. I've gone to
25 meetings and what I understand is we have the

1 toughest, strictest mining regulations there are.
2 National Resources Council of Maine sat in on it. I
3 know they're against this, but they sat in on these
4 regulations. I trust you guys. I trust the State
5 of Maine. These people say they can mine this and
6 do it by your regulations. If they can do that,
7 where is the problem? You guys are going to police
8 them. An independent person is going to take the
9 water samples. I don't understand what the holdup
10 is. When it comes to jobs I know firsthand. I have
11 a nephew that graduated from Katahdin High School.
12 These guys were exploring their mining. He went to
13 work there right out of high school, made pretty
14 near as much money as I did working 50 years. The
15 jobs pay good money. When the exploration got done
16 he had to go over the road out to New York, out to
17 Colorado. He just came back home because he found a
18 job local. He would love to go to work for them. I
19 know a lot of high school seniors who would like to
20 go to work for them. Do you know how many college
21 kids I know that has a debt that they can't even
22 find a job in what field they took? I know my kids
23 when they got out of high school went to work. They
24 were fortunate. They were taught a work ethic and
25 they both had good jobs and I appreciate that, but

1 we need jobs in this area and we need them now.
2 These people, they're all talking about recreation.
3 There's something to think about here. They own
4 T6-R6. They've been very friendly, very cooperative
5 with the ATV clubs, with the snowmobile clubs,
6 allowing people to hunt. Do you know what could
7 happen -- and this isn't just these people. These
8 are anyone that owns land -- great big gates go
9 right across that road and say: Your recreation is
10 over. Yes. We have a law in Maine that you can
11 walk to a 10-acre pond, but how many is going to
12 walk 40 miles, 30 miles?

13 MR. WORCESTER: Can you finish up.

14 DENIS BRACKETT: Yes. I support this and I
15 hope you guys support this. Thank you.

16 MS. ARBO: Up next is Chuck Loucra and then
17 Chuck Leimhiser and if John Breedlove could come to
18 the front, please.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I will start my comments the
20 same way I'm going to end them. I strong support
21 Wolfden Pickett Mountain project. My name is Chuck
22 Loucra and my family and I live very close to this
23 project. We're about 5 miles away, so we're a
24 pretty big stakeholder in this and we're in the
25 adjoining township of Moro Plantation. Our family

1 also runs a lodging business there on the property.
2 I am a town selectman, road commissioner, inland
3 fisheries agent, Knowles Corner ATV Club President
4 and part time music teacher if that's worth
5 anything. Those are my credentials. I believe in
6 the benefits of this project both economically and
7 as everyone has spoken, occupationally, and also,
8 strategically to help decrease our reliance on
9 foreign countries to obtain certain resources,
10 specifically precious metals that all of us uses --
11 and it's already been spoken about today -- in our
12 daily lives, our automobiles, electronic devices,
13 and a whole long list of products necessary to
14 maintain our lifestyles. So many countries that we
15 are getting these resources from are even hostile to
16 us and our Canadian neighbors and they're also
17 countries that are using child labor for this same
18 reason. For these reasons I agreed earlier this
19 year to volunteer on the Wolfden Community Advisory
20 Board which meets in Patten. I receive no money
21 from that. It's just because in my heart I felt
22 this was a worthwhile endeavor to put my time into.
23 Over the past few years I have say in on countless
24 meetings and informational sessions about the
25 construction, the operation, the mining

1 environmental safety concerns. Any questions in
2 these meetings were met with truthful, concise
3 answers and/or a personal invitation for an eyes-on
4 look at the project one on one to go over there and
5 evaluate it on their own -- themselves. Wolfden
6 Resources has been completely supportive from Day 1
7 to the surrounding communities and also to the local
8 outdoorsman. The company purchased the property for
9 their mining site and I believe that they will
10 continue to follow all the stringent regulations
11 that our state and local and federal government has
12 put on them. Therefore, they should be free to
13 pursue their business project. I strongly support
14 the Wolfden Pickett Mountain project and urge the
15 LUPC to approve their request for rezoning. Thank
16 you for listening.

17 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

18 MS. ARBO: Up next is Check Leimhiser followed
19 by John Breedlove and if Scot Walker could come up
20 front, please.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioner.
22 Thank you for the opportunity to talk. My name is
23 Chuck Liemhiser and I am from Old Town and I am not
24 associated with any organization. I'm speaking for
25 myself. I am opposed to this application. We've

1 heard earlier tonight and earlier today about the
2 most tough -- the strictest regulations. It doesn't
3 matter how strict the regulations are. I defy
4 anyone to find me any location that is -- where a
5 mine has provided an environmentally positive
6 impact. It just does not happen. I may get some
7 grief about showing up here from down state. Yes.
8 I am down state about 40 miles in Old Town. I've
9 lived there most of my life. Spent many of my
10 summers up here on the rivers. I kind of mentioned
11 Old Town as well because that's where the
12 state-owned Juniper Ridge landfill is. We were
13 promised great economic benefits from that project
14 also and we've had nothing but problems. Since then
15 and interestingly enough there is talk now that the
16 residual from the tailing processes -- processing
17 from this mine, the very, very, very worse
18 environmental byproduct of the entire operation,
19 could be coming to Juniper Ridge in Old Town. I ask
20 that you deny this application for the health of
21 Northern Maine. Thank you, very much.

22 MS. ARBO: Up next is John Breedlove followed
23 by Scot Walker and then Cody Brackett.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is John
25 Breedlove. I'm from Bangor and I still live in

1 Bangor and I've come to speak about the rezoning --
2 in support of the rezoning of Wolfden's project
3 area. I went to the University of Maine in the mid
4 '80s. Got a geology degree and for the last 30
5 years have been working as a mineral resource
6 exploration geologist a little bit in Maine, mostly
7 around North America overseas. Sometimes way
8 overseas. The last 8 years I've been working in the
9 Midwest, but for 2 years I came back and worked on
10 the Pickett Mountain project. I worked as a mineral
11 exploration manager shepherding the project and I'm
12 just standing here today as a private say citizen.
13 I know all the guys, but I'm stressing that these
14 are my words and if I make any mistakes they are
15 mine. I know I have 3 minutes, but there's 2 points
16 I want to make. Working in the field for 2 seasons.
17 I was working in the woods almost every day. As
18 people know, the location is three miles as the crow
19 flies from Route 11, 8 miles to the east to a
20 satellite parcel KWW and 15 miles from Matagamon.
21 Those 2 are in another watershed and it's a whole
22 different drainage than where Pickett Mountain is.
23 The project itself is located in industrial woods.
24 It's routinely logged, heavily logged, and the
25 traffic there over 2 seasons lots of logging trucks,

1 some hunters, 2 kayakers one day and no fishermen.
2 It is not heavily recreated. I think there's a
3 couple of trails and besides logging there's not a
4 lot going on in there. That's my observation from
5 working there in the 2 field seasons. Other people
6 have talked about strategic -- the metals we use to
7 keep our site going now, so I'm going to pass that
8 point and to the regulations. Okay. Toughest in
9 the US. Wolfden says they can abide by these and I
10 think whether or not they can abide by these rules
11 the process is it gets rezoned and it goes to the
12 DEP and the DEP; looks at the technical viability of
13 the project and they will decide whether this
14 project gets permits. It's not a done deal, but the
15 process looking at the way it seems to go is that it
16 rezoned and then the DEP looks at the technical
17 merits of it and I would not like to see the LUPC
18 short circuit that process by saying no. I mean,
19 Wolfden's done the work. They've collected the
20 data. Let the DEP look at it and let the chips fall
21 where they may. Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Scot Walker followed by
24 Cody Brackett and if Ashley Bodin can come up to the
25 front.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you all
2 for coming out for this public comment so far. My
3 named is Scot Walker. I live in Island Falls. I'm
4 a local business owner -- actually, several
5 businesses including a real estate agency with
6 offices in Houlton and Hermon, a golf course in
7 Island Falls, restaurant and smaller rentals and
8 other things, but I'm here in support of this. I'm
9 also heavily involved in the Big Valley Snow Club
10 who actually grooms the snowmobile trails across the
11 Wolfden Resources land. We've done that the last
12 couple of winters. They've been nothing but
13 wonderful to deal with in opening up its trail in
14 connection to the corridors to the west for people
15 to flow back and forth between our Big Valley Snow
16 Club and the Mt. Chase Shin Pond, Matagamon,
17 Millinocket south and north passage ways. My
18 feelings on this is that there is huge economic
19 possibilities for this. My feelings also are that
20 we need to give them the opportunity to prove that
21 they can do it following the strict standards that
22 the State has put into place. To shut this down now
23 and say you can't do it, we should let me them prove
24 that they can do it. If the water tests are coming
25 back good, the sampling is done, they're following

1 the rules, they should have the opportunity to
2 proceed. We're all using the minerals that they're
3 getting. There's not one person here that does not
4 use one of these minerals every single hour,
5 probably, of their life. If everybody wants to shut
6 down maybe this isn't necessary, but that's not
7 going to happen. They should have the opportunity
8 to prove that they can do what they're saying. If
9 they cannot, it shouldn't exist, but if they can
10 they should have the opportunity to do clean mining
11 here in Northern Maine. I strongly urge you to
12 support this. Thank you very much for your time.

13 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

14 MS. ARBO: Up next is Cody Brackett followed by
15 Ashley Bodin and if Dave Edwards can come forward,
16 please.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon, everyone.
18 Cody Brackett. Lifelong Patten resident. I
19 graduated Katahdin High School in 2010 and I've
20 stayed here ever since graduation. On the one hand
21 I can count the classmates that didn't, you know,
22 that stayed. The rest left. I attended one
23 semester of college, I got my first bill and dropped
24 out to drive a snowmobile groomer and I paid the
25 bill riding a snowmobile for the living until the

1 snow melted and then I went to a potato house and
2 forklift driving and I bounced around. Some jobs
3 aren't here forever. They might only be here for 10
4 years, but it does not decrease their value to the
5 worker. Today I work for a railroad in the area as
6 a conductor, locomotive engineer. From a snowmobile
7 groomer to a locomotive. They're both fun to drive.
8 So, I'd like to point out that the value of the jobs
9 provided by Wolfden are only a small part of the
10 picture, but might be a big part to the people that
11 it will affect. The National Monument came to this
12 region shortly after I graduate high school. There
13 was a big argument about private landowner rights
14 and someone's right to do what they want with their
15 property and how it affects them. I can no longer
16 take an ATV on their land or pick fiddleheads.
17 Today them and their affiliates are building a
18 massive facility right in the Lunksoos right across
19 from where the west (inaudible) dumps in where they
20 found Don Fendler. They had built a road good for
21 50 miles an hour and leveled the region to build a
22 building as big as a local hardware in Patten. And
23 that's okay for the environment that they support.
24 I'd like to point out that one of the arguments made
25 for the National Monument that it would never affect

1 the development outside of the boundaries. Today I
2 have a letter from the National Resource Council of
3 Maine that says directly placing a mine in Maine's
4 Katahdin region just miles from Baxter State Park
5 and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is
6 too big of a risk. As a resident of Patten and all
7 local towns that voted down a National Monument this
8 is kind of an insult to see them now today betraying
9 this. At a minimum Wolfden shows proper paperwork
10 and proper procedure they need the right to move
11 forward with this. They should be given the
12 opportunity. Past mining is different. Chapter 200
13 -- Nick Bennet told me himself he had a hand in its
14 creation -- is the strictest mining law. To say
15 it's untested is unfair. To say they can't do it is
16 unfair. It's been untested. I'd like to give
17 Wolfden a chance and I hope you do, too. Thank you.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

19 MS. ARBO: Up next Ashley Bodin followed by
20 Dave Edwards. And, if Ray Bates could come forward,
21 please.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello everyone. My name is
23 Ashley Bodin. My husband and I moved to Island
24 Falls about 2 years ago. I'm representing myself.
25 Respecting all the opinions and speakers here today

1 I won't insult you all by calling myself a Mainer
2 just yet. I haven't been here long enough, but I
3 actually decided to move to Maine on my first visit
4 to this state. The reason we fell in love with
5 Northern Maine is because you have valuable
6 resources, clean water, dark skies, clean air, all
7 of which we need to sustain life as well as hunting,
8 fishing, outdoor recreation, ATV and hiking trails
9 all of which we, who live up here, need to enjoy
10 life. Having visited 49 states and dozens of other
11 countries I have seen first hand just how rare what
12 we have here really is. I recently had the pleasure
13 of attending a concert in Island Falls this summer
14 and I had an opportunity to interview several
15 people, locals and visitors asking them why they
16 were here and what they enjoyed about it.
17 Unanimously the answer was the fresh air and the
18 peace and quiet. Wolfden has no stake here.
19 They're here to make their money and go. All the
20 rest of us -- especially to you -- this is home.
21 Before moving to Maine I was a back county guide for
22 many years in a small town in Alaska called Skagway.
23 We did not have mining directly in town, but
24 transported it from train to boat for about 2
25 decades long before I was ever there. Over the

1 years our community developed some of the highest
2 cancer rates in the state in a town of 300 permanent
3 residents. It was because of our subsistence diet
4 of shrimp and of crab that was polluted by the mine
5 tailings that leached into the water. Lead and
6 zinc/ore cleanup costs the town over 46 million
7 dollars in remediation. There exists no proven way
8 to mine without irreparable damage to the natural
9 water system. Reverse osmosis not only strips the
10 water of its natural and necessary minerals, but
11 also creates a toxic waste byproduct that as of yet
12 we don't have the technology to clean up. To all in
13 favor of the mine I hear you. You want jobs to the
14 community and you have a desire to offer the younger
15 generation sustainable economic opportunity and I
16 agree with you. We can't control what happens
17 elsewhere in the world, but we can vote with or
18 dollars and tell big corporations governments that
19 we want them to better, that we want more choices
20 than really bad or really bad. If we do nothing,
21 nothing will change. We currently reside in the top
22 10 percent in the country for quality of life as we
23 as humans move forward with climate change. I plead
24 with you to deny this petition and I offer instead
25 for your consideration that we shift this energy and

1 focus on tourism and protecting our resources, our
2 history for ourselves and for future generations.
3 There are state grants and other organizations even
4 right here in Millinocket in position to support
5 expanding tourism in our area. Not a whole lot of
6 training required to prep local jobs in tourism
7 because who knows the woods and waters of Maine
8 better than Mainers.

9 MR. WORCESTER: Could you please finish.

10 ASHLEY BODIN: Yes. Even if the jobs with
11 Wolfdon go 100 percent to local residents they have
12 a number and an expiration date, though the damage
13 will remain with us long after they are gone.
14 Tourism is limitless and creative with a niche for
15 everyone with far more proven ecological and
16 economical benefits. Thank you.

17 MS. ARBO: Up next is Dave Edwards followed by
18 Ray Bates and if Marian Fowler and come up front.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is David Edwards. I'm
20 from Lincoln and Mt. Chase. I'm also another person
21 that's not much for speaking in publically, so if
22 you pardon my nervousness we will make it through
23 this. I didn't intend to speak tonight. I always
24 found that you learn more when you listen and I came
25 here tonight to listen, but walking in I couldn't

1 have but have a little bit of a flashback with the
2 Union. I saw my old friend Neal in the background
3 and he was doing his bio-mineral thing I tried to
4 talk to him as we did down in Lincoln. I don't know
5 if you remember the Earth Purchase coming down and
6 doing their raid, but I tried talking to him a
7 little bit about NRCM, sat down and designed this
8 with Wolfden to come up with an environmentally
9 friendly procedure and whatnot to do it. And, maybe
10 I should back up a little bit. My background is, I
11 was schooled as a biologist. I've had a little bit
12 of geology. I've had a lot of biology, flora and
13 fauna. I understand ecosystems and that kind of
14 stuff, so that's why I came here to learn. I've
15 worked with environmental groups before. I was a
16 chairperson of the Penobscot River Bay Institute for
17 approximately a decade that's housed out the
18 Mitchell Environmental Center down in UMO. One of
19 our programs was the Penobscot River Keepers which
20 we took school kids out in voyager canoes and did
21 environmental education and whatnot based on sound
22 science. We partnered with the salmon clubs or
23 whatnot for the Salmon River Restoration. You guys
24 might be well aware of what cooperation can do when
25 people sit down collectively and use sound science,

1 sound industry practices, best management practices.
2 And, one example is when we had NRCM who is the
3 strongest environmental group in the State of Maine
4 with something like a seven million dollar a year
5 operating budget well respected by the State, all
6 agencies, all private groups. They sat down with
7 stakeholders and whatnot and we came up with the
8 Penobscot River Restoration project. You may be
9 aware that well be aware that we're leading the
10 nation in that. We took the dam out -- finished
11 taking the dam out in Bangor. We took the Milford
12 dam out and we put the waterway in Howland on this
13 side of things. And, I'm running short on time, but
14 I would just like to make one quick statement. All
15 the people from away have their opinion, but I'd
16 like to give a little historical fact from somebody
17 who is truly a native Mainer. My family has been in
18 Lincoln longer than the town has been there. My
19 cousin had a farm from 1820, so I got the inside
20 (inaudible) from 1877. My roots run deep. I would
21 like to remind you guys that in the '50s the State
22 of Maine come up with a lake water classification
23 system that was spread out through the nation. In
24 the '60s a single person by the name of Howard
25 Trotsky put in a lawsuit that lead to the Clean

1 Water Act by our Senator Muskie that was implemented
2 throughout the United States. And the '70s come
3 along -- the '80s we got Senator Mitchell's Clean
4 Air Act. We led the nation taking dams in river
5 restoration. Why should not we sit down in
6 partnership with the most legitimate, authoritative,
7 defined, recognized, respected environmental group
8 along with respected industry who is committed to
9 this project and come up with a plan that can also
10 save the nation? One last thought and this is
11 strictly personal. There is somebody in the crowd
12 that said he was kind of against this, but he's all
13 for it. He's going to come up and test them and
14 hold their feet to the grindstone. I hope they do.
15 I hope they get all cooperation. I'm schooled as a
16 biologist. If the guy starts -- would like to come
17 up and start a monitoring program and I'm sure they
18 would work with us and monitor that for the local
19 people; by the local people, for the local people.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Ray Bates followed
22 by Marian Fowler and if we could have Will Neils
23 come up front.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening Commission
25 Members. I salute you for your hard task before

1 you. You've listened to pros and cons. And I would
2 not necessarily appreciate being in your position,
3 but, I, too, am opposed to the Wolfden project. My
4 understanding is the reverse osmosis has not been
5 used on a project of this magnitude. I would want
6 verification that indeed it will work. Despite how
7 many people have spoken in favor of this project I'm
8 not sure that they -- as neither do I -- have
9 expertise in the background of hydrology, geology,
10 mining -- to say, unequivocally, that this is not
11 going to damage our environment. I'm a life-long
12 educator. I live in Patten. I have read, watched,
13 seen documentaries on mining dan no place have I
14 seen that mining has been an asset. I'm not an
15 expert on mining, but I recognize what I see as a
16 sales pitch for a project to convince you that this
17 mining regulation should be reconsidered and rezone
18 this property to allow mining. When, indeed, if
19 Maine has the strictest mining laws there wouldn't
20 be no need for this because it doesn't meet the
21 standard. We don't know where the tailings are
22 going to go and there's been no proof that the water
23 can be returned to the land. Some might argue that
24 water is the most -- clean water is the most
25 precious resource we have. We're looking at various

1 ways to have energy to heat and cool our homes, but
2 water is precious. So, I wish you good luck. I
3 hate to rely on you and the DEP to save us from this
4 natural disaster in our communities. We're already
5 dealing with PFAS with millions of dollars for
6 cleanup. We don't need another. Thank you.

7 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Marian Fowler
8 followed by Will Neils and the last person will be
9 Laura Farnsworth.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Marian
11 Hale-Fowler. I'm a resident of Norcross, Indian
12 Purchase 3. Hi, Pete. High school classmate Peter
13 Pray. I am, so far, pretty much a lifelong resident
14 of Maine and almost a lifelong resident of the
15 greater Millinocket area. My husband and I taught
16 school here in middle school and we were here for
17 the glory years when we were in high school.
18 Millinocket was a booming town, but then we stayed
19 here and we've been here for the really, really bust
20 years. We know. We remember. We are still living
21 through a very, very difficult economic time, but I
22 also remember when the rivers were pretty polluted
23 and I was -- I feel -- I'm speaking from the heart.
24 I came to listen and learn and I thought, well, what
25 the heck. I can speak from my heart; and I'm going

1 to. At this point I really hope that you say no,
2 you know, come back with more tangible evidence that
3 this can be done, but -- because I'm hearing dollars
4 and jobs versus environment. And, we've come a
5 long, long way from the days when the rivers were
6 filthy and it's a very difficult climb to climb your
7 way back up. So, I say you have a hard job ahead of
8 you folks. You need to evaluate not just the amount
9 of money and the number of jobs, but you need to
10 remember the future generations. My husband and I
11 live on land that his family settled 5 generations
12 ago and I'm speaking for the future generations for
13 our children and grandchildren to try to keep it
14 clean and better and improve it. And, I'm saying at
15 this point I hope that you'll say, no, not yet, to
16 Wolfden. Thank you very much and thank you for your
17 work.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

19 MS. ARBO: Up next is Will Neils followed by
20 Laura Farnsworth.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
22 Will Neils. I was born and raised and still live in
23 Appleton, Northern Knox County. It's been a while
24 since I've appeared before the commission here and I
25 appreciate the opportunity. Needless to say what's

1 important for us to remember is that while people
2 from other countries -- foreign investors like
3 this -- always come to Maine hat in hand expecting
4 us to be bumpkins and take whatever it is offered to
5 us. We know that we, in fact, are smart enough not
6 to necessarily take the offer because it's offered.
7 What's really important for you to remember is the
8 whole context of this discussion right now has to be
9 filtered through some basic totally and absolutely
10 nonnegotiable realities. It was approximately 23
11 years ago that James Wolfowitz, who, at that time,
12 was a head of the World Bank, a relatively notorious
13 international organization that many of you probably
14 are aware of acknowledged that the next world war
15 would be for water. Now, why does that matter to
16 people like us? Well, we live in Maine. A place
17 with an abundance of clean water now. One of the
18 reasons for that is because we've never been stupid
19 enough to allow industry to do things like, I don't
20 know, frack gas or maybe drill a half of a mile into
21 the earth and set off explosions because, you know,
22 that will affect the aquifer. So, when we think
23 about this let's just review why water is important
24 to us. We need it to grow food. We need it because
25 we're made up of water primarily -- our bodies --

1 and we need it to drink ourselves. These are pretty
2 important notions you want to keep in mind. It's
3 very important that you not create the rezone for
4 this project. We already have enough cooperate
5 drifters from other countries stealing our water.
6 We don't need one like this belligerently destroying
7 it and spreading that around. It took us
8 generations to start the cleanups in Orrington at
9 Holtrachem. It took us generations to shut down the
10 toxic paper plants in this State. And, it's
11 important for us to remember this is not subjective.
12 This is reality. They've never had a metallic mine
13 like this that didn't, in fact, destroy the area
14 near it. So, just because some cooperate grifters
15 show up and claim it's going to be fine doesn't mean
16 they're respectable. This gentleman started a gold
17 mine in Burkina, West Africa back in the mid OTTS
18 which has lead to untold domestic strife and
19 trouble, lots of killings and a few military coups.
20 So, it's not like these people don't, obviously,
21 have some cooperate blood on their hands. The whole
22 point is, are we stupid enough bumpkins to believe
23 that they will conduct themselves honorably in our
24 state? I don't believe we are. I'm sure you've all
25 heard of a pig in a poke. Well, this is a pig in a

1 joke. And the joke is on everybody here if this
2 commission begins the process of rolling this
3 idiotic proposal forward. We all need jobs in
4 Maine, but we don't need jobs that destroy our
5 ability to survive for multiple generations
6 thereafter. Do your jobs to the citizens and
7 taxpayers of this state. My family owns 65 acres of
8 land. We don't want our aquifers destroyed. Thank
9 you very much for your time. I expect you to act
10 accordingly.

11 AUDIE ARBO: Okay. Next we have Laura
12 Farnsworth and we have one person that didn't check
13 the box, but they did sign in and that would be
14 Edward Spencer.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Commissioners,
16 I rise because I'm in opposition to the Wolfden
17 project. My name is Laura Farnsworth and I'm from
18 Island Falls. When I was a child in the '50s my
19 father took me hunting in the forest surrounding
20 Mattawamkeag Lake. And, I learned hydrology,
21 hydro-geology. As we traveled along a road or a
22 pathway he would signal for me to stop and listen
23 and I could hear a twig snap or a tree squeak or a
24 distant train whistle and sometimes the babble of a
25 brook. Sometimes the brook could not be seen. My

1 father would reach behind a tree and produce a blue
2 agate cup, remove a damp rock or 2 and we would have
3 a drink so cold and refreshing that I remember it to
4 this very day. It had no taste. I remember that,
5 too. My father would put the cup and the rocks back
6 in place and on we would go. He later explained
7 that those underground brooks and spring brought
8 water to the surface from deep underground. He told
9 of the last glaciers passing through about 10,000
10 years and that these glaciers were melting and
11 dumping rocks, gravel and sand in huge mounds and
12 deposits. He showed me where glaciers scoured out
13 ponds and marshes and what the mounds left behind
14 formed ridges so big they forced down the land and
15 pushed water up that was deep below the surface. In
16 school I learned that there are 2 main kinds of
17 aquifers, contained and uncontained -- and I have my
18 kitchen models with me. This would be an example of
19 a contained aquifer, a fairly simple system. You
20 could monitor it easily. And this is more like the
21 aquifer we have or area. It's just spaces connected
22 to other spaces. And, where it's replenished, the
23 water sits down deep into the ground to replenish
24 and it can wander. It doesn't have a specific path
25 to travel. Many aquifers in our country are mapped,

1 measured and monitored. It's a matter of national
2 importance. In the northern west quadrant of Maine
3 aquifers have not been mapped or monitored, but we
4 know that they are large and uncontained because we
5 know our glacial history. So, I just want to share
6 that in closing that there are places that are
7 better prepared to handle zinc mining. This area
8 and this company does not have the experience nor
9 expertise necessary to operate a mine safely nor the
10 incentive to protect this region into the future.

11 MS. ARBO: Next we have Ed Spencer. I do have
12 a couple of people who signed up, but didn't check
13 the box if they wanted to speak. If you intended to
14 speak just come up -- and if you signed up -- let me
15 know.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioner,
17 members, public. Thank you for the opportunity to
18 share my concerns in opposition of allowing zoning
19 changes to Pickett Mountain. My name is Ed Spencer
20 and I live in West Old Town. I'm a long-time
21 opponent of the State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill
22 in Old Town. I'm also a logger. Family history
23 informs my stance versus mining in Maine. My
24 grandfather worked for a mining company for 32 years
25 until he died 2,000 feet below the surface in

1 Bisbee, Arizona at Age 59 when I was 6 years old. I
2 can hardly remember him and greatly regret not
3 having to get to know the man. His health was
4 diminished by his life in the mine refine dust,
5 fumes, darkness, heat, et cetera, are contrary to
6 human health. If you think mining jobs offer hope
7 to your youths and yourselves, you first need to
8 take a realistic look at all the negatives
9 associated with that life. And I defy you to show
10 us a thriving mining community where the air is
11 clean and you can drink the water and eat the fish
12 and game. Wolfden's branding in our office window
13 in Patten is an insult to our intelligence, quote,
14 environmental. Sustainable. Acid mine tailings
15 pose a threat to waters and air quality as do the
16 processing of smelting of ores. I have recently
17 visited the Katahdin region and walked along both
18 the East Branch of the Penobscot and the Seboeis
19 River. In the late '70s I worked for most of the
20 summer in Mt. Chase. We used to stop and swim on
21 the way home. And older guy in the crew would go
22 catch some trout when our work was going well. This
23 beautiful and bountiful land could be forever
24 diminished by Wolfden's plan. This proposal seems
25 to sharply contrast what the LUPC charter. It's an

1 extreme change of use, not just for the immediate
2 lands in question, but the surrounding vicinity for
3 miles around. It is deceptive that the developers
4 have not included a processing and smelting location
5 in their lengthy application. That alone should be
6 grounds for rejection. I am grateful that the LUPC
7 responded to our legislator's pleas for a hearing
8 session in Bangor. In conclusion, Wolfden, a
9 Canadian Firm, has shown its predatory nature by
10 making statements to their shareholders such as,
11 quote, there are no indigenous rights in Maine so
12 this just streamlines the permitting process, end
13 quote, while we continue working to achieve
14 sovereignty for the Maine Wabanaki Tribes you should
15 realize that popular opinion is that we trust the
16 tribes to do the right thing. What is good for the
17 Wabanaki is good for Maine and this zoning change is
18 bad for both. Thank you much. And, I've got to
19 say, I'm very sympathetic to your plight
20 economically here. Old Town's mill is shut down,
21 but my fear is that if this would happen, that it
22 would prevent good jobs from coming to this region.
23 Thank you.

24

25

1 MR. WORCESTER: Is there anyone who wishes to
2 speak? I wish to remind everyone that the record
3 will remain open for written comments until
4 Thursday, November 2, 2023. And, for an additional
5 week until Thursday November 9, 2023, for rebuttal
6 testimony. Except for post-hearing briefs to be
7 filed by the parties, no other evidence or testimony
8 will be allowed in the record after that date. The
9 hearing will be continued with the technical session
10 at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow here at Stearns Junior and
11 Senior High School. And, the next public comment
12 session will be tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. here as well.
13 I thank you all for coming and you were very orderly
14 and I thank you for that as well. Good night.

15 (This Public Hearing in the matter of Zoning Petition ZP 779A
16 concluded for the night at 8:28 p.m. this date.)

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CERTIFICATE

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2
3 I, Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary Public in and
4 for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on October 16,
5 2023, personally appeared before: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, in
6 the aforementioned cause of action: PICKETT MOUNTAIN MINE
7 REZONING APPLICATION, ZP 779-A, WOLFDEN MT. CHASE LLC., and
8 the foregoing, as reduced to computer type, is a true and
9 accurate record of the evidence as taken by me by means of
10 stenograph.

11 I further certify that I am a disinterested person
12 in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause.

13
14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and seal in
15 Readfield, Maine, this 24th day of October, 2023.

16
17
18
19
20
21 _____
22 Karen A Dube, Notary Public

23
24 My Commission Expires, May 19, 2025
25

\$	20-year ^[1] - 44:9 200 ^[9] - 7:1, 17:14, 19:12, 22:25, 23:11, 23:24, 26:9, 36:16, 60:12 2000 ^[2] - 33:4, 34:17 2010 ^[1] - 58:19 2012 ^[1] - 16:21 2014 ^[1] - 46:22 2016 ^[1] - 35:6 2017 ^[3] - 19:14, 23:25, 37:18 2020 ^[1] - 37:16 2023 ^[5] - 1:9, 77:4, 77:5, 78:5, 78:15 2025 ^[1] - 78:22 207-394-3900 ^[1] - 1:24	43,000 ^[1] - 31:9 45 ^[2] - 37:17, 37:19 45th ^[1] - 35:7 46 ^[1] - 62:6 48.9 ^[1] - 37:14 49 ^[1] - 61:10 49.2 ^[1] - 37:17 499 ^[1] - 37:10	9	activist ^[1] - 39:2 activities ^[4] - 3:3, 44:10, 44:12, 44:24 activity ^[1] - 44:22 add ^[1] - 40:10 adding ^[1] - 13:15 addition ^[1] - 18:2 additional ^[2] - 21:16, 77:4 address ^[1] - 16:14 adjacent ^[2] - 5:17, 16:8 adjoining ^[1] - 51:25 administrative ^[1] - 12:23 Administrative ^[1] - 3:6 adverse ^[2] - 25:11, 36:20 Advisory ^[1] - 52:19 advocacy ^[1] - 17:13 advocate ^[1] - 29:5 affect ^[4] - 35:3, 59:11, 59:25, 70:22 affects ^[1] - 59:15 affiliates ^[1] - 59:17 afford ^[3] - 37:13, 37:16, 37:18 aforementioned ^[2] - 78:6, 78:12 Africa ^[3] - 41:9, 42:14, 71:17 afternoon ^[1] - 58:17 agate ^[1] - 73:2 Age ^[1] - 75:1 agencies ^[2] - 24:25, 65:6 agency ^[1] - 57:5 agent ^[1] - 52:3 aggregate ^[2] - 10:11, 10:13 ago ^[7] - 16:11, 18:23, 33:17, 49:16, 60:24, 69:12, 70:11 agree ^[3] - 17:22, 43:14, 62:16 agreed ^[1] - 52:18 ahead ^[1] - 69:7 Air ^[1] - 66:4 air ^[5] - 29:22, 61:6, 61:17, 75:10, 75:15 Airport ^[1] - 25:20 airport ^[1] - 25:21 Alaska ^[1] - 61:22 Alice ^[4] - 22:3, 24:7, 26:13, 26:16 allow ^[12] - 2:4, 17:15, 19:20, 23:1, 23:20, 23:23, 24:1, 25:6, 36:15, 37:21,
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